What Is Claimed Is:

1.   A method for spoofing stations while transmitting data through a medium, the method comprising:

setting a duration value to a value other than a time period for a predetermined subsequent message transmission; and

sending a signal containing the duration value during a contention free period, wherein at least one of the stations is an obeying station that updates a network allocation vector in accordance with the duration value, that records a reason why the network allocation vector is updated, and that determines when to ignore a duration value of a subsequent signal sent during the contention free period and when to obey the duration value of the subsequent signal based upon the reason why the network allocation vector is updated.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising responding to the subsequent signal when the duration value of the subsequent signal is ignored.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the subsequent signal is a request-to-send signal.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the duration value represents a time period for suppressing transmissions by the obeying station.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of unknown protocols are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

6.   The method of claim 4, wherein transmissions of hidden stations are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

7.   The method of claim 4, wherein critical transmissions are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

8.   The method of claim 4, wherein at least some of the stations are provided in an overlapping basic service set, and stations of the overlapping basic service set are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

9.   The method of claim 4, wherein stations of an enhanced version of a standard are given preferential use of the medium when the transmissions by the obeying station are suppressed.

10.   A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of executable instructions, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

set a duration value to a value other than a time period for a predetermined

subsequent message transmission; and

send a signal containing the duration value during a contention free period, wherein at least one of the stations is an obeying station that updates a network allocation vector in accordance with the duration value, that records a reason why the network allocation vector is updated, and that determines when to ignore a duration value of a subsequent signal sent during the contention free period and when to obey the duration value of the subsequent signal based upon the reason why the network allocation vector is updated.

11.   The machine-readable medium of claim 10, having stored thereon additional executable instructions, the additional instructions further comprising an instruction to respond to the subsequent signal when the duration value of the subsequent signal is ignored.

12.   The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the subsequent signal is a request-to-send signal.

13.   The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the duration value represents a time period for suppressing transmissions by the obeying station.